

REMARKS

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 19-36 remain for examination.

**OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS**

In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the examiner has pointed to numerous instances in which the claims are objected to for lack of proper antecedent basis and in some instances under 35 U.S.C. § 132 for introducing new matter in the prior amendment.

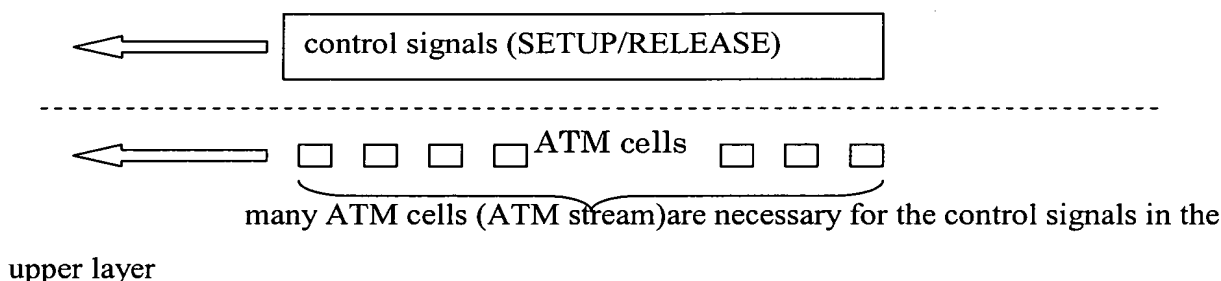
By way of the instant amendment, applicant has amended the claims in order to remove the specific grounds of objections set forth by the examiner in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action. In particular, the terminology “non-allocated VPI value” has been deleted from the claims. Further, proper antecedent basis has been provided for all of the “specific VPI” and “specific VCI” values. Moreover, the device ID has been utilized in place of the prior terminology which was simply “identifier.” Support for the device ID may be found, for example, on page 13, line 23 of the application as originally filed.

As illustrated in applicant’s Figure B below, the device ID is acquired from the network device 1 on sign-on or on the initial or first connection as recited, for example, in applicant’s claim 19 and described in the specification as filed on page 13 line 23. Thus, according to embodiments of applicant’s invention, it is not necessary to make VPI allocations prior to installing the user devices, but rather, on the contrary, VPI allocations are performed after connecting the user devices to the network device. Applicant’s claims are further described herein below in the section entitled “Prior Art Rejection.” It is submitted that all of applicant’s claims fully comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and do not introduce any new matter and are thus in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 132.

**Prior Art Rejection**

The cited Reference (WO99/07179) is characterized by the use of the control signals such as SETUP for setting up a connection or RELEASE for releasing a connection as illustrated below in Fig. A.

As the cited Reference uses the control signals, the process is executed in the upper layer than the layer for sending and receiving the ATM cells. That is to say, many ATM cells are necessary for the control signals such as SETUP or RELEASE to be sent or received.



**Fig. A**

( An illustration of the cited Reference )

On the other hand, in reference to Fig. B below with the circled numbers correlating to Fig. B, the present invention, as recited in claim 1 is characterized by an ATM network system comprising: a network device; and a plurality of user devices,

wherein said network device receives from one of the plurality of user devices a first specific ATM cell ( ③ )

which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded in an information field with a device ID for identifying said one of the user devices ( I )

and transmits, to said one of said user devices, a second specific ATM cell ( ④ )

which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID and a proper VPI value on an information field, ( II ) and

said one of the plurality of user devices acquires the device ID from said network device on first connection, ( ① )

transmits the first specific ATM cell after the first connection with said network device, ( ② )

receives the second specific ATM cell, ( ⑤ )

and holds the proper VPI value as its own VPI value when the device ID loaded in the second specific ATM cell is equal to the acquired device ID. ( III )

In reference to claim 9, an embodiment of the invention is characterized by a VPI value allocation method for an ATM network system including a network device and a plurality of user devices, which comprises the steps of:

acquiring step for acquiring a device ID from said network device by said user device on first connection; ( ① )

a first transmission step for transmitting, from said user device to said network device, a first specific ATM cell ( ② )

which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID for identifying said user device on an information field; ( I )

a second transmission step for transmitting, to said user device, (in response to the first specific ATM cell( ③ )) a second specific ATM cell ( ④ )

which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID and a proper VPI value on an information field; ( II ) and

a holding step for holding the proper VPI value as its own VPI value in said user device when the device ID loaded in the second specific ATM cell is equal to the acquired device ID, ( III )

after receiving the second specific ATM cell. ( ⑤ )

Therefore the present invention can allocate VPI value by only sending and receiving the specific ATM cells using the specially defined procedure.

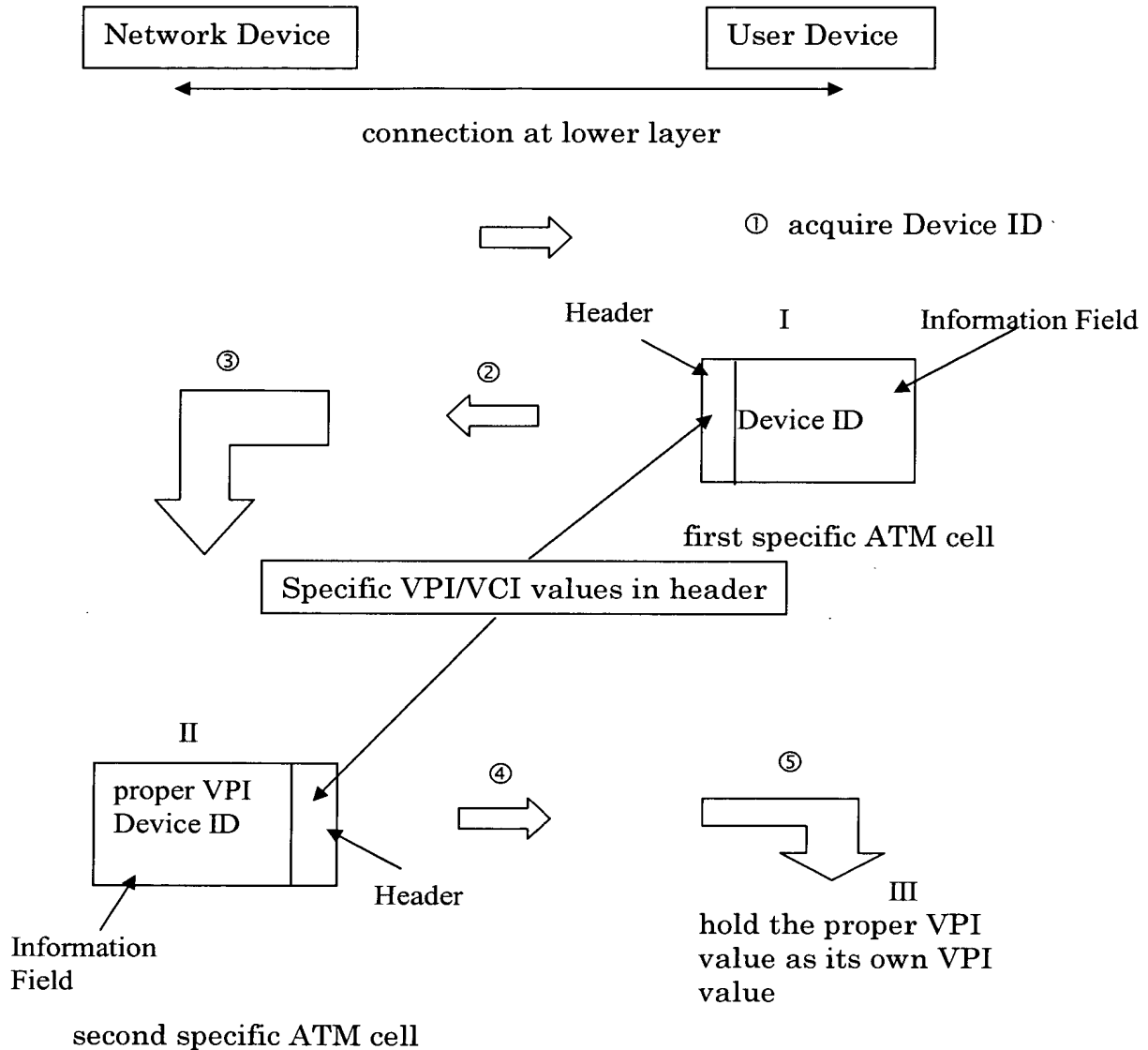


Fig. B

(An illustration of an embodiment of the Present Invention )

From the above Fig. B, it may be seen that applicants' claim 19 and 27 clearly define applicants' invention and distinguish same over the primary WO99/07179 reference.

It is submitted that applicant's claims clearly define the invention which may be readily understood in reference to applicant's Figure B set forth above which is a summary of the various steps recited in applicant's claims. The fact that the user device ID is inserted in the information field of the specific ATM cell is clearly disclosed in applicant's specification as, for example, on page 9 at lines 6 and 24. Applicant's independent claims 19 and 27 have been annotated above so that the various recitations may be correlated with figure B presented above for convenience of the examiner.

Applicant's sole remaining independent claim 35 is somewhat broader than independent claims 19 and 27 but nevertheless recites the salient features of applicant's invention in reciting the acquiring step of acquiring a device ID on first connection from the network device to the one of the plurality of user devices and a sharing step for holding the VPI value in common by communication between the network device and the user device using a ATM cell which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID for identifying the one of the plurality of user devices on an information field. As such, it is submitted that applicant's independent claim 35 likewise readily distinguishes applicant's invention from the prior art and is patentable thereover.

Applicant's dependent claims are deemed to be patentable since they incorporate the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.  
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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